

OIL FIELD MENACED BY TITLE CLOUD

Decision Due on Government Rights

Oil operators busily engaged in exploring the revived South Torrance field were apparently giving but scant attention this week to the one billion-dollar cloud of title that settled down over California's rich oil industry. None of the operators soon had the Herald would venture an opinion on the report that the Department of Interior was preparing to hand down a decision on 28 applications for oil and gas leases. These cover the rich Torrance, Santa Fe Springs, Wilmington and Dominguez fields.

However, the oil men thru their various group affiliations are maintaining a close watch on the Federal developments. The applications were filed early last year, with the contention that oil taken from these areas had been withdrawn illegally and that all mineral rights to the lands belong to the United States government.

Coming on the heels of a bitter controversy over submerged oil deposits off the California coast, the new complication is expected to renew demands that the Government take prompt action to settle once and for all California's century-old land title disputes.

Long Legal Research The struggle over ownership of oil in interior fields springs from sources different from oil land grant confusions and questions of state and national sovereignty. Applicants for leases on the four great petroleum fields concede absolute title and surface land rights to present owners, but have built a formidable legal argument holding that mineral rights beneath the surface of the ground are retained by the Federal Government.

Attorney Ben L. Blue of Los Angeles filed the 28 lease applications for oil in February, 1937. The pleas were promptly and "finally" rejected by the Department of Interior. After the attorney hurried to Washington, however, and presented arguments and legal history of officials were so impressed that they ordered him to file a petition for rehearing. This was done May 12, 1937, and the Interior Department has been engaged in legal research on the subject since.

Blue's petition declared that his clients' applications for leases were based on "sleepers" in the Santa Gertruda's Patent, granting title to lands which include Santa Fe Springs, and in the San Pedro Patent, granting title to lands which include the Wilmington, Dominguez and Torrance oil fields. All other patents granted by the United States Government passed mineral rights to the land owners, but the Santa Gertruda's and San Pedro patents, Attorney Blue asserted, contain exceptions and reservations as to minerals.

Signed by Grant "Why that was so, no one knows," the lawyer said, "but those two patents specifically gave title to lands only for agricultural and grazing purposes, with the mineral rights retained by the Government. The latter held these rights by reason of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which passed on to the United States the mineral rights formerly held by the Spanish and Mexican governments."

Title to the land in the Santa Gertruda's Patent was confirmed to Samuel Carpenter on October 4, 1852, in conformity with the treaty in which the United States agreed to recognize all property rights granted by Mexico. September 18, 1871, after Carpenter's death, the Santa Gertruda's Patent was signed by (Continued on Page 2-B)

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Realtor Predicts Boom to Follow Peace in Orient

"If China wins the undeclared but indescribably bestial war brought on by Japan, the Pacific Coast may expect a business and industrial boom of the greatest proportions the world has ever known," Phillip Norton, president of the Los Angeles Realty Board and head of the firm now selling Palos Verdes Estate home sites, told members and guests of the Torrance Kiwanis club Monday night.

"I believe China will win and repel the invaders who took Manchuria without the slightest objection from other world powers and thus gave Mussolini the idea of grabbing Ethiopia and Hitler Austria," Norton, towering six-foot, three and one-half inches tall, said.

"Then will come the years of reconstruction and there will be a great amount of China to be constructed. That is where we stand to, win colossal export trade and industrial firms located in the east will not be contented to ship their products to the Orient transcontinental by rail or down thru the Panama Canal. They will expand to build branch factories here on the Pacific Coast."

Norton, whose years of experience in the Orient qualify him as an authoritative speaker, was strongly outspoken in his denunciation of the Japanese military party's aggression in China.

Four Accident Victims Treated at Hospital Here

Lloyd Brennan, 812 Portola avenue, suffered a fractured clavicle and cuts about his head Sunday morning in an automobile accident near Torrance. He is recovering at Torrance Memorial hospital. Brennan is employed as a motion picture studio technician.

Three other victims of auto accidents were also treated this week at the hospital. Saturday Jack C. Dawson of Los Angeles, was treated for cuts and bruises following a crash at 190th and Prairie. Louis Clutz, 39, of Pasadena, was cut about the head in a hit-and-run accident at 220th and South Main street Sunday. Deputy sheriffs brought Francis E. Dillon, Long Beach, to the hospital Monday morning for emergency treatment of cuts and bruises suffered in a collision outside the city limits.

Texas, 80, Grows Soft FORT WORTH, Tex. (U.P.)—S. J. Adkins, 80, thinks he must be getting soft. He started his annual walk from Dallas to the home of a daughter here, a distance of 30 miles, and was forced to ride half the way on a bus when his foot began hurting.

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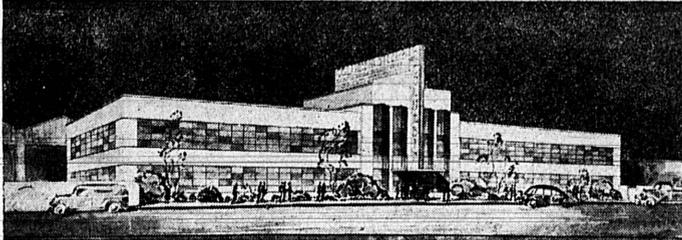
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Steel Office Building Completed



Regarded by architects and builders as one of the most modern structures of its kind, embodying the latest design of streamline decor and quake-proof, the new office building of the Columbia Steel company has been completed at 2087 East Slauson avenue, Los Angeles. It will be open for inspection next Monday, June 20, from 1 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

The building, which cost approximately \$150,000, is 183 feet long and 41 feet wide. It has two floors and a pent house with about 17,000 square feet of floor space. Air-conditioned throughout, it will be the headquarters of the Southern California sales force of the steel company. Construction of the building started last November 15.

Fred P. Shidler to Get M.D. Degree

Mrs. Mina Shidler of this city, accompanied by her son James and his wife of Whittier and Mr. and Mrs. Victor York of that city will attend the graduation ceremonies Sunday at Stanford University when Fred Porter Shidler will receive his M. D. degree.

Dr. Shidler, who will thus follow the career of his late father Dr. George P. Shidler, has a year's contract to take charge of a 20-bed industrial hospital at Logan, West Virginia, near the city of Huntington. On completion of that contract he will return to the Pacific Coast to become a resident surgeon at the Stanford Lane Memorial hospital in San Francisco.

Waterworks on Fire

CLEBURNE, Tex. (U.P.)—Local firemen thought it was a joke when someone telephoned an alarm that "the waterworks are on fire." They answered the call and found that a small shed near the water plant was on fire.

Veterans' Group Endorses McQuarrie for Congress

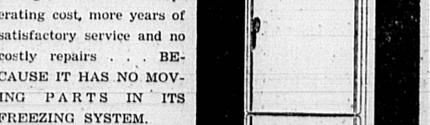
At a meeting held last Sunday with 32 veterans' organizations represented, the Veterans' Democratic Association of the 17th Congressional district endorsed the candidacy of Dr. Charles W. McQuarrie of Gardena for representative in Congress. Dr. McQuarrie filed his announcement of candidacy last Thursday and is planning to open headquarters in the three assembly districts of the Congressional district next week.

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Blade Artist Has Exhibit at Redondo Library

The latest creations of Howard Daniels, who is attracting considerable attention as a "razor-blade artist," will be on exhibition at the Redondo Beach library for one week beginning next Saturday. Daniels is employed at the Columbia Steel plant where he has made some 5,500 sketches of patterns during the past several years.

His razor-blade carvings will be featured in a John Hix "Strange as It May Seem" cartoon Saturday. "The number of my carvatures in wood has been increased considerably in recent months," Daniels says. "A story about my work which appeared in the American magazine brought an offer to exhibit them in Providence, Rhode Island. New faces have been added to the collection—Dick Powell, Carole Lombard, Laurel and Hardy, Wallace Berry, George Jessel and others have been depicted with my trusty razor-blade on wood. I have also made some new western scenes and I hope all my friends in Torrance see the exhibition in the Redondo library."

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